

OTHER FOREIGN AND DEFENSE AGENCIES

TEXT SUMMARY

In addition to the Departments of State and Defense, several government agencies are closely involved with U.S. foreign and defense policy. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has three major tasks. First, it coordinates the information-gathering activities of all State, Defense, and other federal agencies involved in foreign affairs and defense. Second, it analyzes that data. Third, it keeps the President and the National Security Council informed on intelligence matters. The CIA also conducts worldwide intelligence operations through **espionage**, or spying.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforces immigration laws and requirements. It also administers to immigrants benefits such as work permits, naturalization, and **political asylum**—safe haven for those persecuted in their home country.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency created by Congress to oversee the U.S. space programs. NASA's work ranges from exploration of outer space and the development of space stations to research on the origin and structure of the universe.

The Selective Service System manages the **draft**, or required military service. The first national draft occurred in 1917 when the Selective Service Act drafted men to fight in World War I.

Between 1940 and 1973 the draft was a major source of military manpower in the United States. Although the draft ended in 1973, young men still must register for the draft soon after their 18th birthday.

THE BIG IDEA

Several government agencies are closely involved with foreign and defense policy.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Agencies

Agency	Function
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gathers, analyzes, and distributes intelligence information conducts worldwide intelligence operations through espionage
Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enforces immigration laws and requirements administers immigration benefits such as political asylum
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oversees the U.S. space programs
Selective Service System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> manages the draft

Each of these federal agencies performs a function related to U.S. foreign and defense policy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How is the draft implemented today?

2. **Chart Skills** From which federal agency could a person receive political asylum?